

## BLACK FOREST ROAD CORRIDOR WIDENING



**October 2021**

### **Final Design Process Complete** ***City Advertising for Contractor***

The City of Colorado Springs has finalized design plans for the Black Forest Road widening project and expects construction to start in February/March 2022. The following is still underway:

- Right-of-Way and easement acquisition. Several major utilities need to be relocated away from the existing road in these new easements before roadway work can occur.
- Formal agreements with the utility companies to accomplish this work.

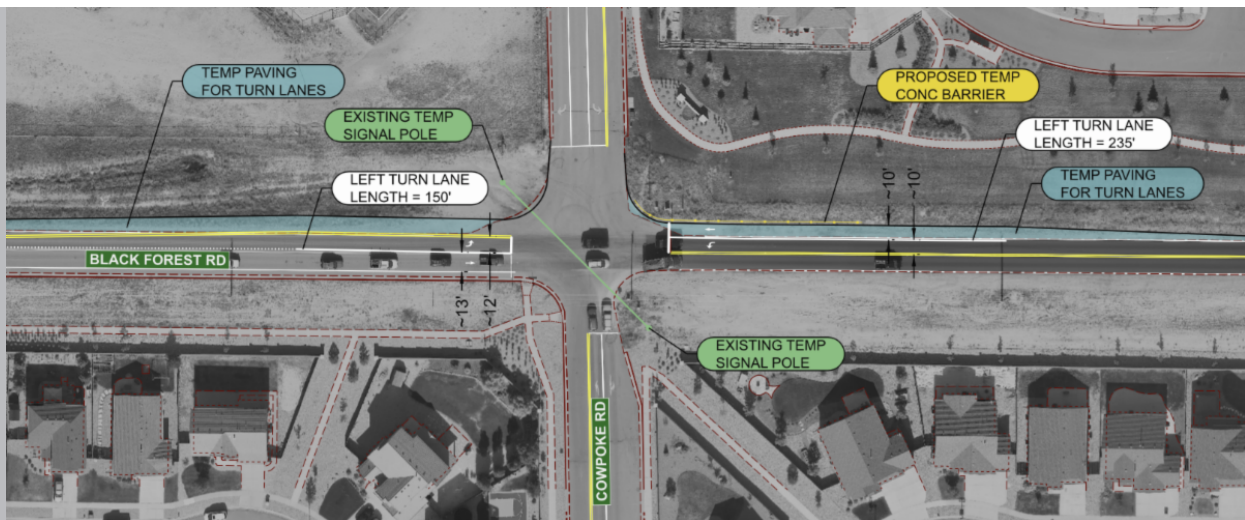
### **Project Update:**

#### **Woodmen Road to Research Parkway Construction:**

- The City anticipates hiring a contractor in November 2021
- Public Open House (in-person and virtual) February 2022
- Construction for this segment is anticipated to start in February/March 2022 (NOTE: Research Parkway to Old Ranch Road is not yet scheduled)
- To help traffic flow during construction, the City will incorporate left turn lanes from Black Forest Road to Cowpoke Road at the beginning of construction.
- Project completion is anticipated for late 2023 (weather and resource dependent)

A public open house, both in-person and an online option, will be scheduled once a contractor is onboard. Construction phasing and what to expect during construction will be presented during the public open house. Another eNewsletter will be distributed early in 2022 with the meeting date/time, location and other information.

The project team is committed to mitigate impacts during construction as much as possible. Your patience is greatly appreciated as we work to complete this much needed project as quickly as possible to alleviate congestion along the heavily-traveled Black Forest Road.



## Project Overview

The area of Colorado Springs along the three miles of Black Forest Road between Woodmen and Old Ranch roads has experienced considerable growth over the past several years, with continued growth projected. Much of the area, as well as the arterial connections to Black Forest Road (Research Parkway/Marksheffel Road and Briargate Parkway/Stapleton Road) is projected to be developed within the next five to ten years. Several large developments have already been constructed in this area. Existing and proposed development requires more capacity along this portion of Black Forest Road than the current two-lane section provides.

As development continues rapidly, the City of Colorado Springs will be widening of Black Forest Road from Woodmen to Old Ranch roads beginning in February/March 2022. Construction of the segment of Research Parkway to Old Ranch Road has not been scheduled.

The project will widen Black Forest Road to a four-lane principal arterial cross-section from Woodmen Road to Research Parkway and will construct a new bridge over Cottonwood Creek. The project is funded through the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) "A" List of projects.

The project team incorporated public input into the design with the following considerations:

- **Maintaining a rural feel:** Streetlights will only be installed at the intersections, and not along the entire corridor. This will provide safety, but still reduces night-time artificial pollution that can hamper night-sky viewing at dusk.
- **Multi-use safety concerns:** To address safety concerns related to conflicting bicycle and motorized vehicle movements between Woodmen Road and Vollmer Road, the shoulder was removed and replaced with 10-foot sidewalks on both the east and west sides of Black Forest Road.
- **Traffic operations:** The project will improve traffic operations at the intersections of Black Forest Road with Woodmen, Vollmer and Cowpoke roads and Research Parkway.
  - In addition to the existing traffic signals at Woodmen Road and Vollmer Road, permanent traffic signals will be added along Black Forest Road at Cowpoke Road and Research Parkway. (While not

specifically a part of the Black Forest Road Corridor Widening Project, the City installed a temporary signal at the Cowpoke intersection in 2020 to assist with traffic flow for residents and the travelling public.)

- Dedicated right- and left-turn lanes do not currently exist at all major intersections along Black Forest Road. Turn lanes will be added at these intersections.
- One through-lane in each direction will be added on Black Forest Road.
- Dual left-turn lanes will be provided for several movements with higher projected traffic volumes, including southbound left turns at Woodmen and Vollmer, westbound left turns at Vollmer, northbound left turns at Research, and eastbound left turns at Research.
- **Overhead Utilities:** The proposed design includes undergrounding the Mountain View Electric Association's overhead utilities currently on the east side of Black Forest Road between Woodmen and Research Parkway and removing the utility poles.
- **Bridges over Cottonwood Creek:** Two separate bridges will span the creek with an aesthetically-pleasing design. Stabilization of that section of the creek will occur by removing the existing riprap and upgrading the channelization. The project will also include provisions for the future trail under the bridge.



## Project Overview Corridor Map

[CLICK HERE](#) to view enlarged map on project website.

## Project Background





The Black Forest Road Corridor Study established an implementation plan to meet current and future capacity needs. It enables the City to move forward with future project design phases as funding becomes available for needed improvements and widening of Black Forest Road for this three-mile segment.

The Corridor Study includes:

- Corridor Preservation and Implementation Plan
- The required number of road lanes and signalization
- Future bike, trail, and pedestrian accommodations
- Water quality and detention
- Erosion mitigation of Cottonwood Creek in the project area and the channel south of Research Parkway
- Replacement of the Cottonwood Creek Bridge

To be added to the database to receive information and meeting notices, email:

[BlackForestRoadWidening@gmail.com](mailto:BlackForestRoadWidening@gmail.com)

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[Visit the Project Website](#)

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